



# Huron-Clinton Metroparks

**Michigan House of Representatives  
Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee  
October 14, 2015**



**HURON-CLINTON metroparks**

DELHI • DEXTER-HURON • HUDSON MILLS • HURON MEADOWS  
INDIAN SPRINGS • KENSINGTON • LAKE ERIE • LAKE ST. CLAIR  
LOWER HURON • OAKWOODS • STONY CREEK  
WILLOW • WOLCOTT

# Huron-Clinton Metroparks





# Huron-Clinton Metroparks History

Founded by



Dr. Henry Curtis

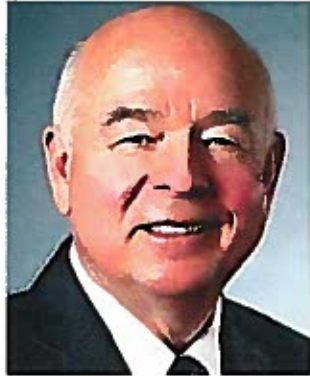


Professor Harlow Whittemore

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority was sanctioned by the Michigan State Legislature in **Act No. 147 of the Public Acts of 1939** and was approved in 1940 by the citizens of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties, which constitute metropolitan district. The Board of Commissioners held their first meeting in 1941. Funding for the Authority became available in 1942. Property acquisitions began in 1945.



# HCMA Board of Commissioners



**John C. Hertel**  
Chairman  
Governor Appointee



**Timothy J. McCarthy**  
Vice-Chairman  
Governor Appointee



**Robert W. Marans**  
Treasurer  
Washtenaw County



**Jaye Quadrozzi**  
Secretary  
Oakland County



**John E. LaBelle**  
Livingston County



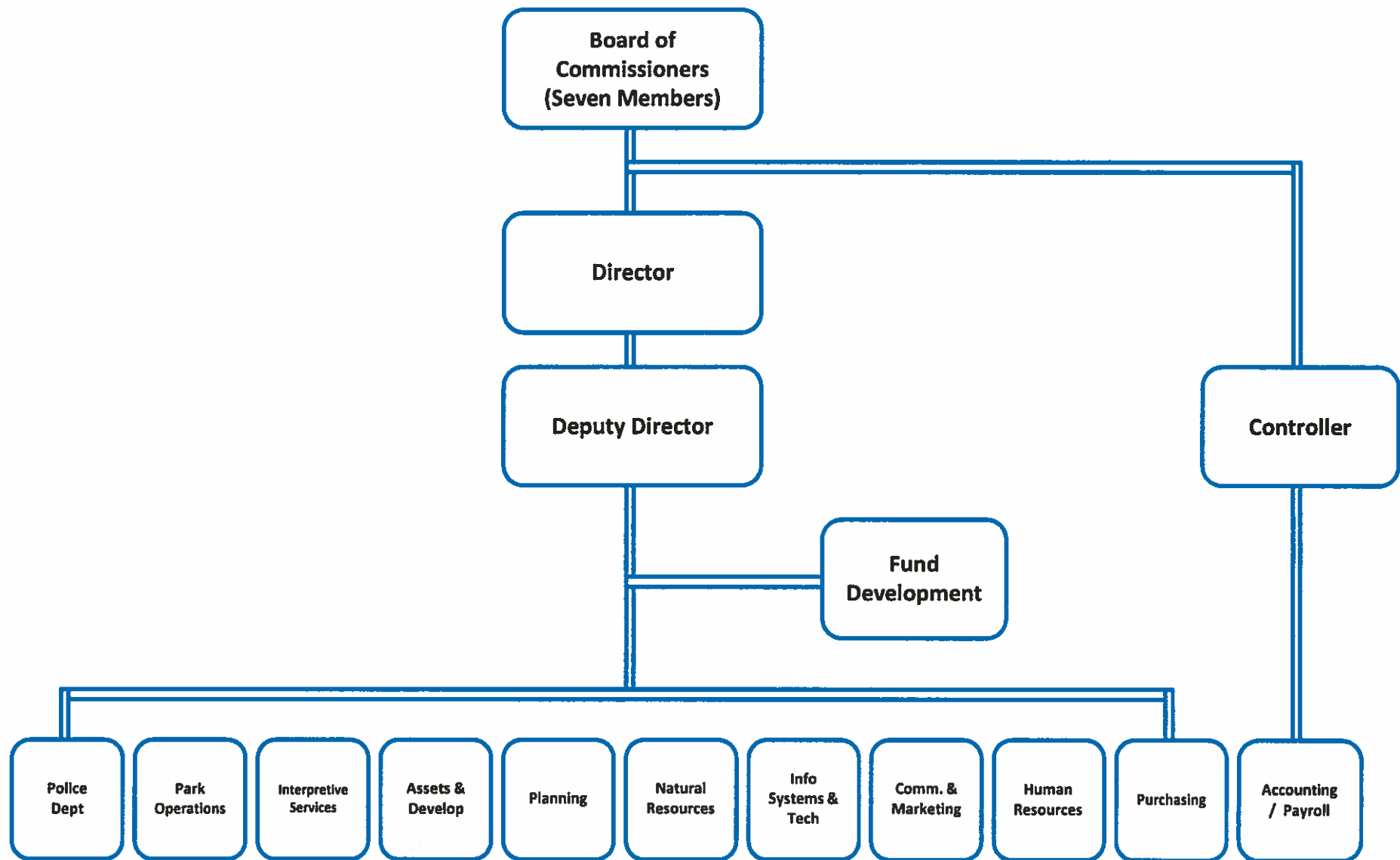
**Bernard Parker**  
Wayne County



**Anthony V. Marrocco**  
Macomb County



# HCMA Organization Chart



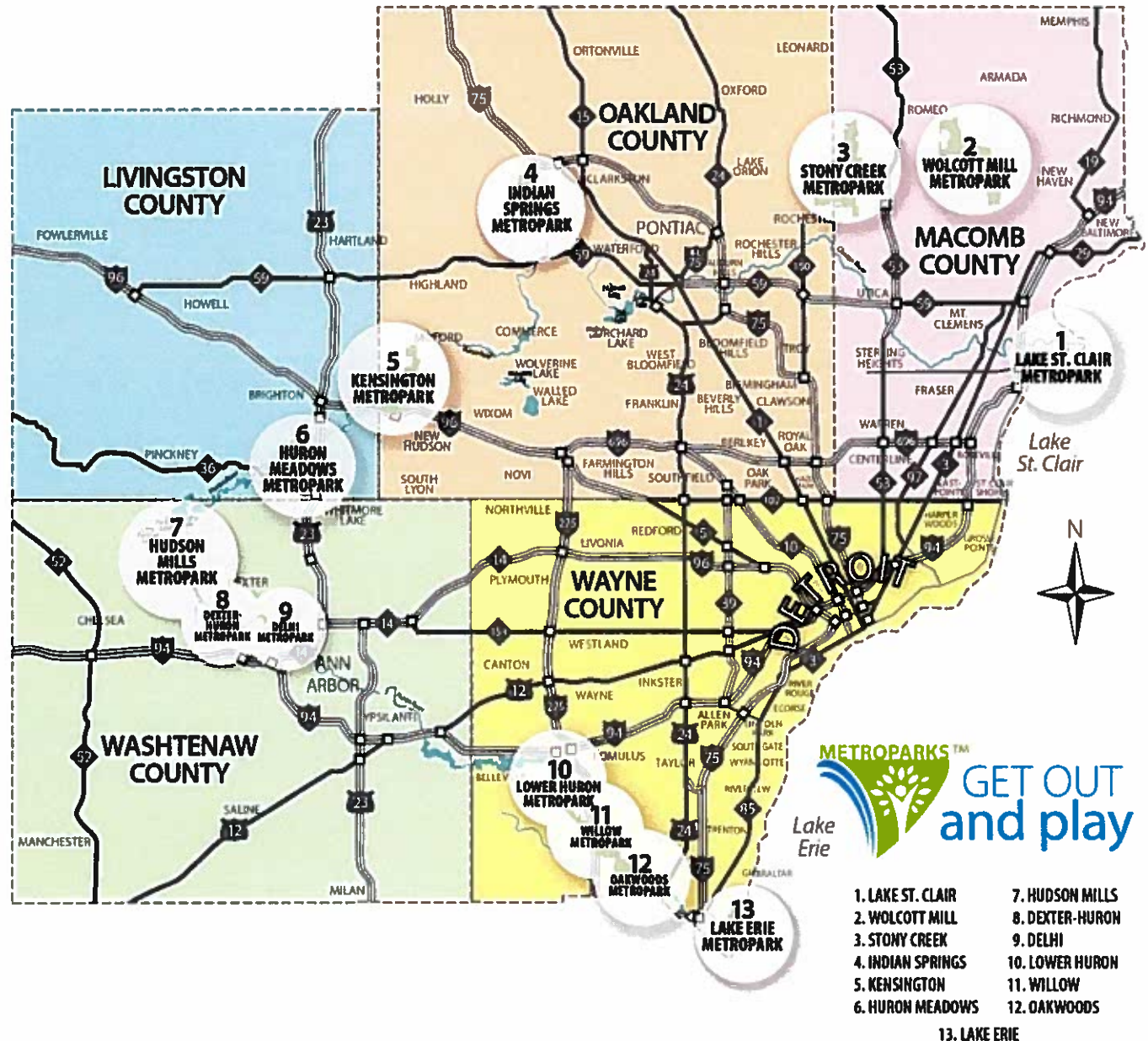


# The Metroparks

**13 parks covering nearly 25,000 acres in five counties.**

**Most people in Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties are just 30 minutes from a Metropark.**

**Approximately 8 million visitors each year!**





# The Metroparks

## Services Offered

- Biking/Hiking
- Birding
- Boat Rental
- Boating
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Group camping
- Disc Golf
- Equestrian Trails
- Fishing/Ice Fishing
- Farm Center
- Fitness Trail
- Geocaching
- Ice Skating
- Island Queen II
- Nature Center
- Paddle boarding
- Picnicking
- Playgrounds
- Running/Walking
- Sledding/Tobogganing
- Snowboarding
- Splash 'N' Blast
- Swimming





# Benefits of the Metroparks

- Regional park system throughout southeast Michigan
- Offers a year-round experience for our partners
- Economic draw for local communities
  - *Trails and recreation*
  - *Horseback riding communities*
  - *Housing developments*
  - *Links to downtown businesses*
- Health and wellness
- Provide access to rivers and lakes
- Non-motorized corridors
- Wildlife green space
- Education
- Provide meeting space for local groups
- Regional funding partner





# Western District

## WASHTENAW COUNTY

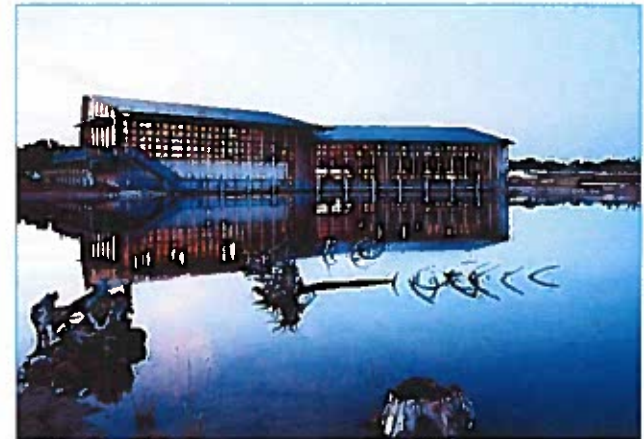
Park	Acres	Year Opened
Dexter-Huron	120	1952
Delhi	52	1957
Hudson Mills	1,536	1957

## LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Park	Acres	Year Opened
Huron Meadows	1,573	1984

## OAKLAND COUNTY

Park	Acres	Year Opened
Kensington	4,486	1948
Indian Springs	2,509	1982





# Eastern District

## MACOMB COUNTY

Park	Acres	Year Opened
Lake St. Clair	789	1950
Stony Creek	4,435	1964
Wolcott Mill	2,850	1989





# Southern District

## WAYNE COUNTY

Park	Acres	Year Opened
Lower Huron	1,256	1953
Willow	1,532	1970
Oakwoods	1,715	1975
Lake Erie	1,607	1980





# By the Numbers

	Livingston	Oakland	Macomb	Wayne	Washtenaw
Population SEMCOG December 2014	186,234	1,249,149	869,158	1,752,566	358,081
Population SEMCOG 2040 Projection	214,323	1,246,863	905,390	1,656,931	386,235
Population SEMCOG Projected Change 2014-2040	15.08%	-0.18%	4.17%	-5.46%	7.86%
Average HH Size SEMCOG December 2014	2.6	2.43	2.5	2.53	2.37
Population 65+ SEMCOG Projected Change 2010-2040	146.72%	92.04%	90.46%	60.57%	154.06%
Population under 18 SEMCOG Projected Change 2010-2040	4.30%	-6.15%	-3.49%	-26%	-11.46%
White (Non-Hispanic) Population 2010 Census	95.30%	75.10%	83.90%	49.60%	72.10%
Black (Non-Hispanic) Population 2010 Census	0.40%	13.50%	8.60%	40.30%	12.50%
Asian (Non-Hispanic) Population 2010 Census	0.80%	5.60%	3%	2.50%	7.80%
Multi-Racial (Non-Hispanic) 2010 Census	1.10%	1.90%	1.90%	2%	2.90%
Hispanic Population 2010 Census	1.90%	3.50%	2.30%	5.20%	4%
Median HH Income 2010 ACS	\$72,129	\$66,390	\$53,996	\$42,241	\$59,065
Per Capita Income 2010 ACS	\$31,609	\$36,138	\$26,524	\$22,125	\$31,316
HHs in Poverty 2010 ACS	6%	8.50%	9.50%	19%	13.10%
Median Housing Value 2010 ACS	\$216,400	\$204,300	\$157,000	\$121,100	\$216,200



# Green Infrastructure Vision for SE Michigan

© SEMCOG 2014

Table 6

## Park Acreage by County

Area	Total Parks Area (Acres)	Total Parks Area (Acres) Greater than 200 Acres	Park Acres per 1,000 Residents	Vacant Land Adjacent to Parks (Acres)
Livingston	29,500	16,477	163	5,645
Macomb	14,184	9,111	17	2,164
Monroe	7,943	3,122	52	568
Oakland	61,053	36,585	51	7,942
St. Clair	24,955	17,065	153	3,571
Washtenaw	33,499	13,889	97	3,980
Wayne	25,899	13,493	14	2,082
Out Wayne	21,391	11,192	19	1,952
Detroit	4,814	2,300	7	130
Region	197,032	109,742	42	25,952

“...new parks are not necessarily needed when looking at the regional picture...The analysis and stakeholder input does show the need to better link existing parks and natural areas together.” (p. 12)



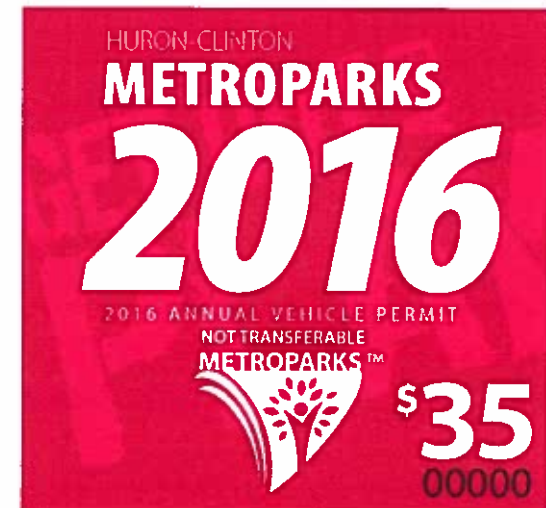
# How the Metroparks are Funded

## Primary funding:

- .2146 mills on the taxable value of property in five-county park district
- Revenue from property taxes **down \$8 million** since 2008.

## Supplemental Revenue Sources:

- Daily Pass \$7 (Possible increase in 2016)
- Yearly Pass \$30 (\$35 in 2016)
- Senior Yearly Pass \$20 (\$21 in 2016)
- Fee-based amenities & programs
  - Golf courses, disc golf, boat rentals, food service, etc.
- Grants/donations/Friends of the Metroparks

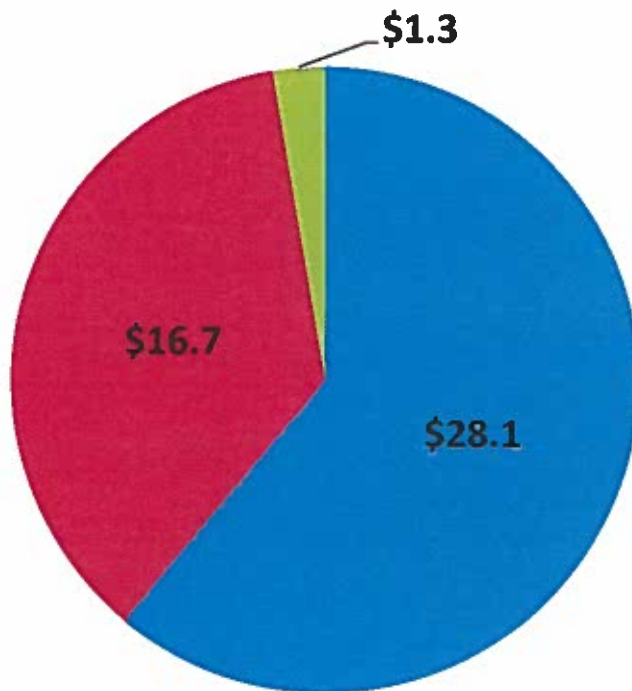


***User fees make up one-third of the Metroparks operating budget, with the other two-thirds coming from property taxes***



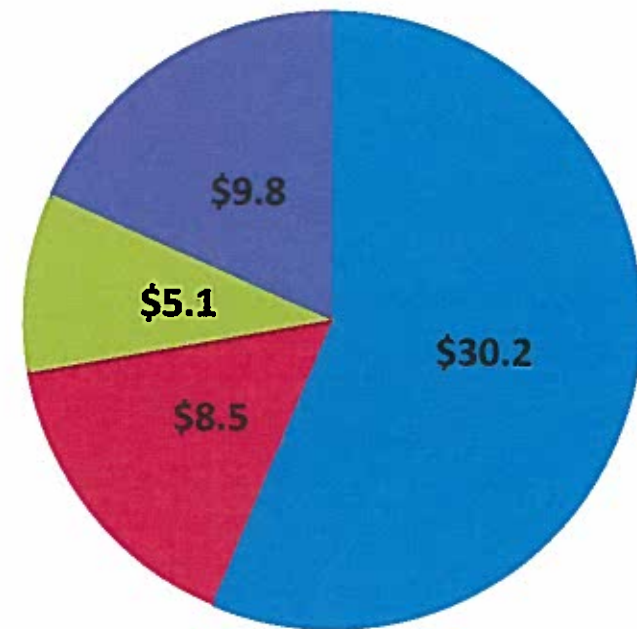
# 2015 Budget: General Fund

Revenues (in millions)



■ Property Tax      ■ Park Operating Revenue  
■ Other Revenue

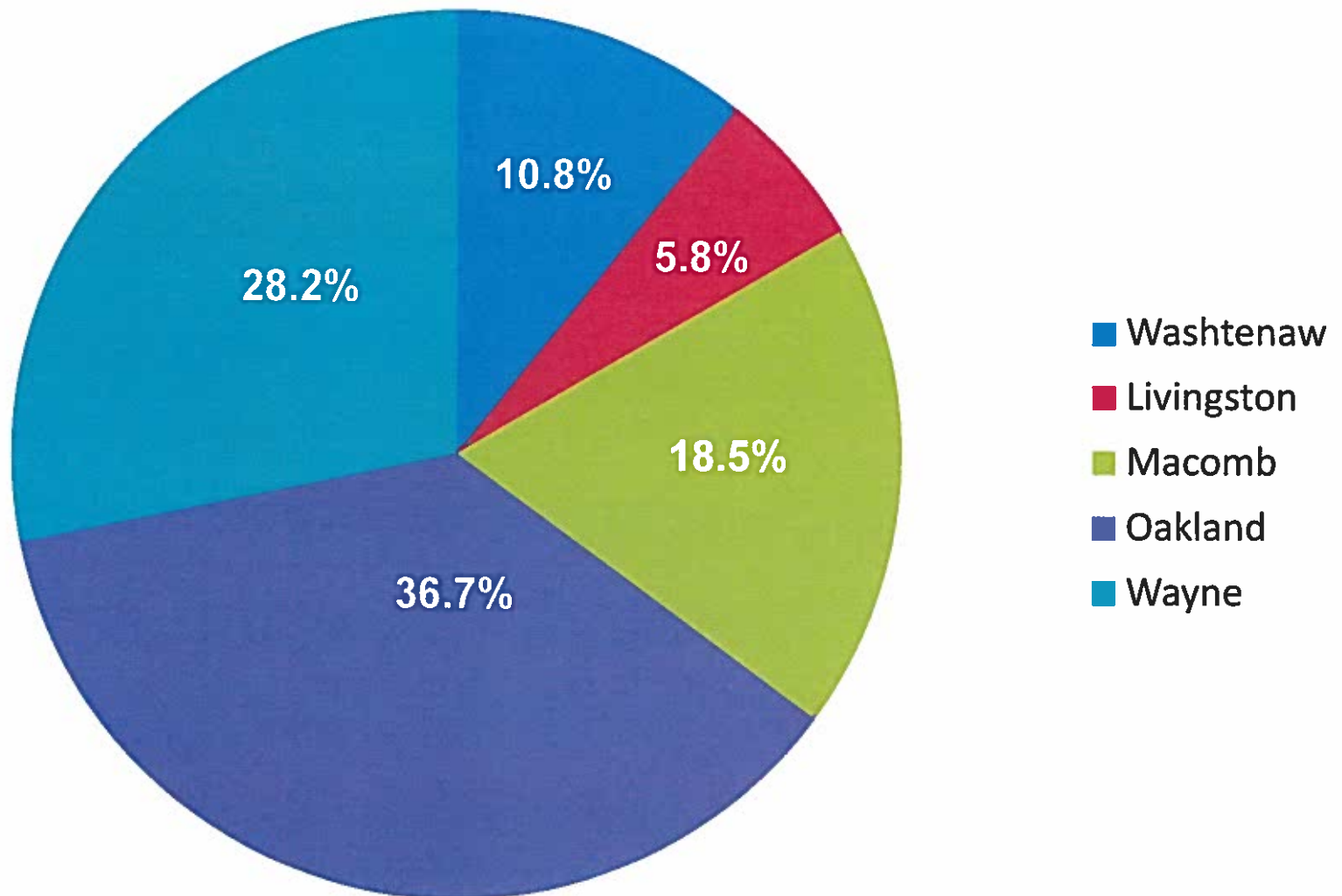
Expenditures (in millions)



■ Park Operating Expenses    ■ Administrative  
■ Major Maintenance      ■ Capital



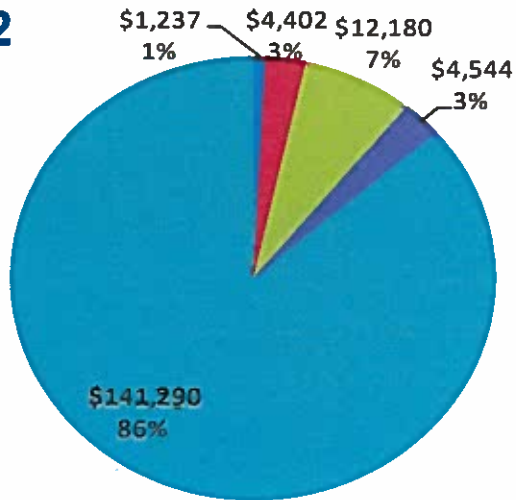
# 2015 Property Taxes by County



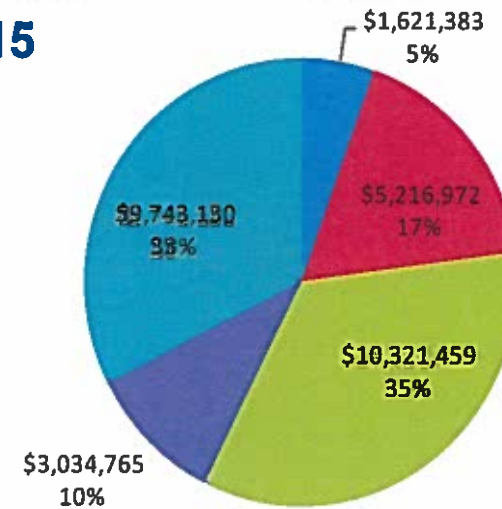


# Tax Shift Over Time

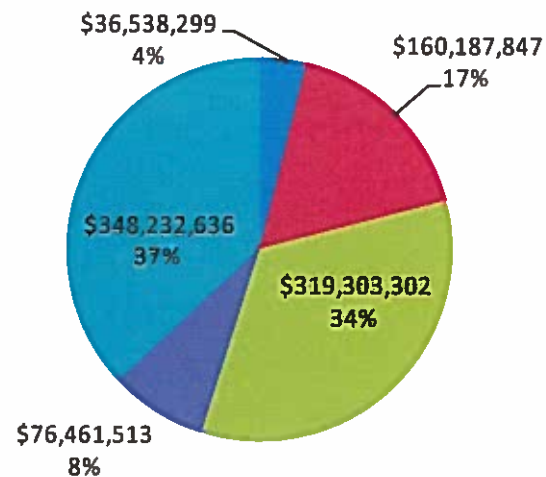
**1942**



**2015**



**1942 - 2015**

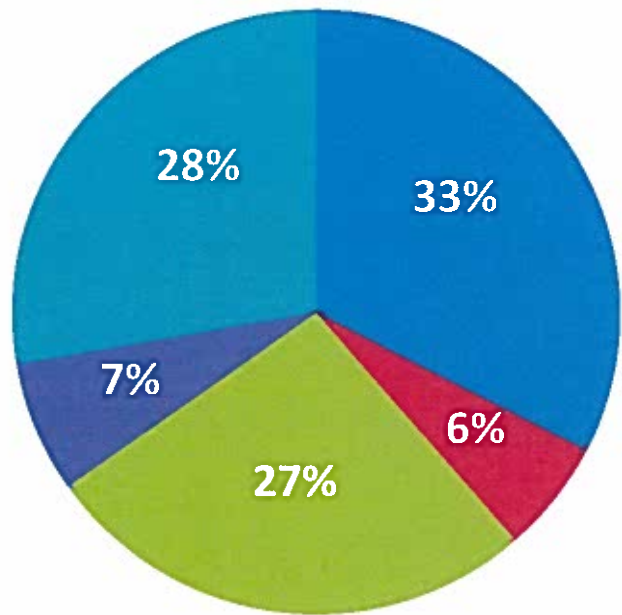


■ LIVINGSTON ■ MACOMB ■ OAKLAND ■ WASHTENAW ■ WAYNE

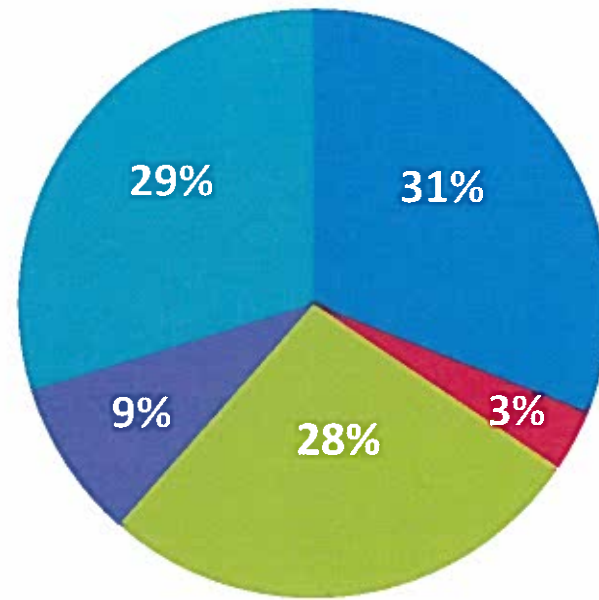


# Operations Revenue/Expense by County

10-Year Average as of 12/31/2014



Revenue



Expenditures



# Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants



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# Maltby Lake Access (Huron Meadows)







# Nature Center Overlook (Kensington)





# Marina Point Development (Lake Erie)



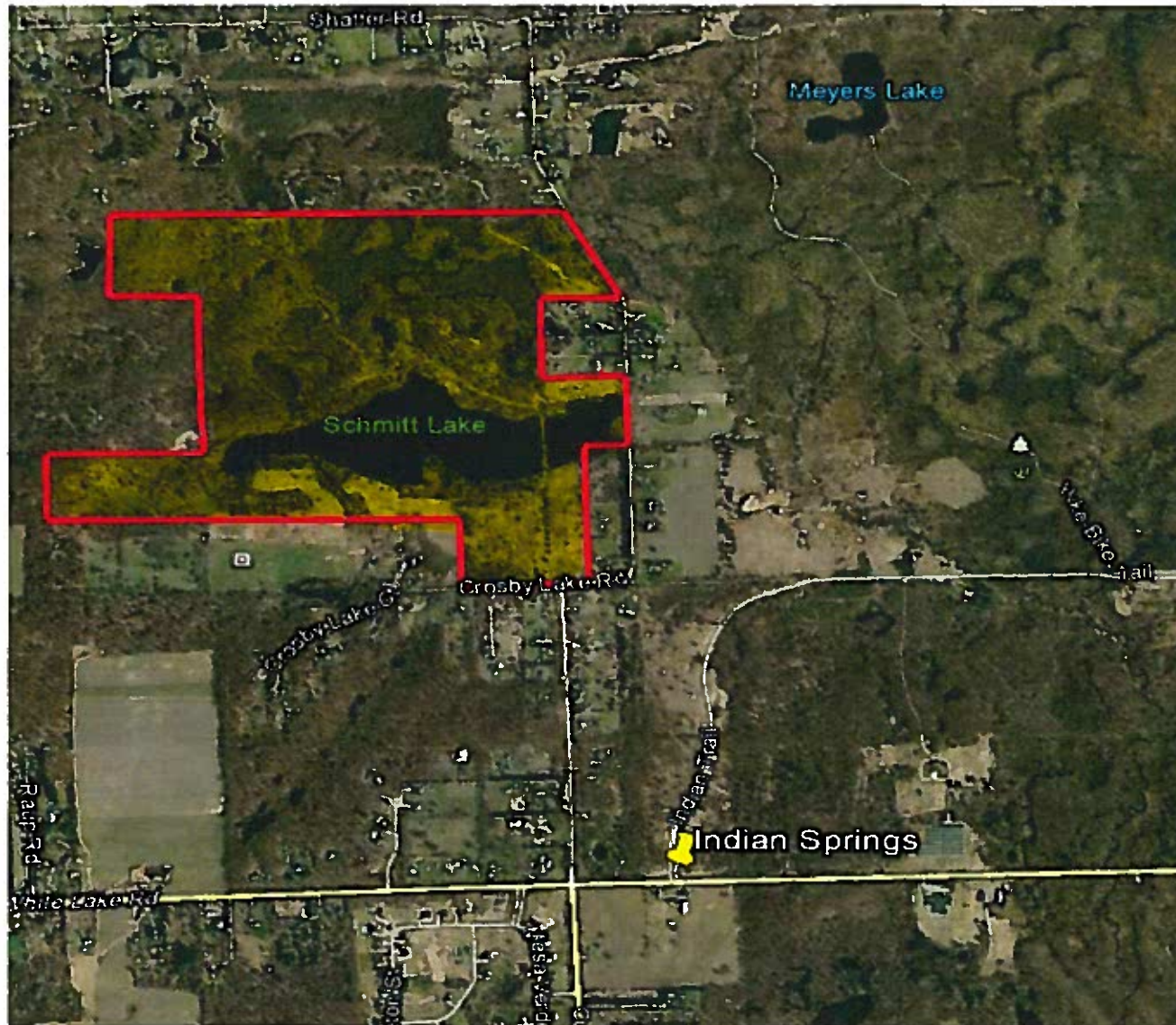


## Point Shoreline (Lake St. Clair)



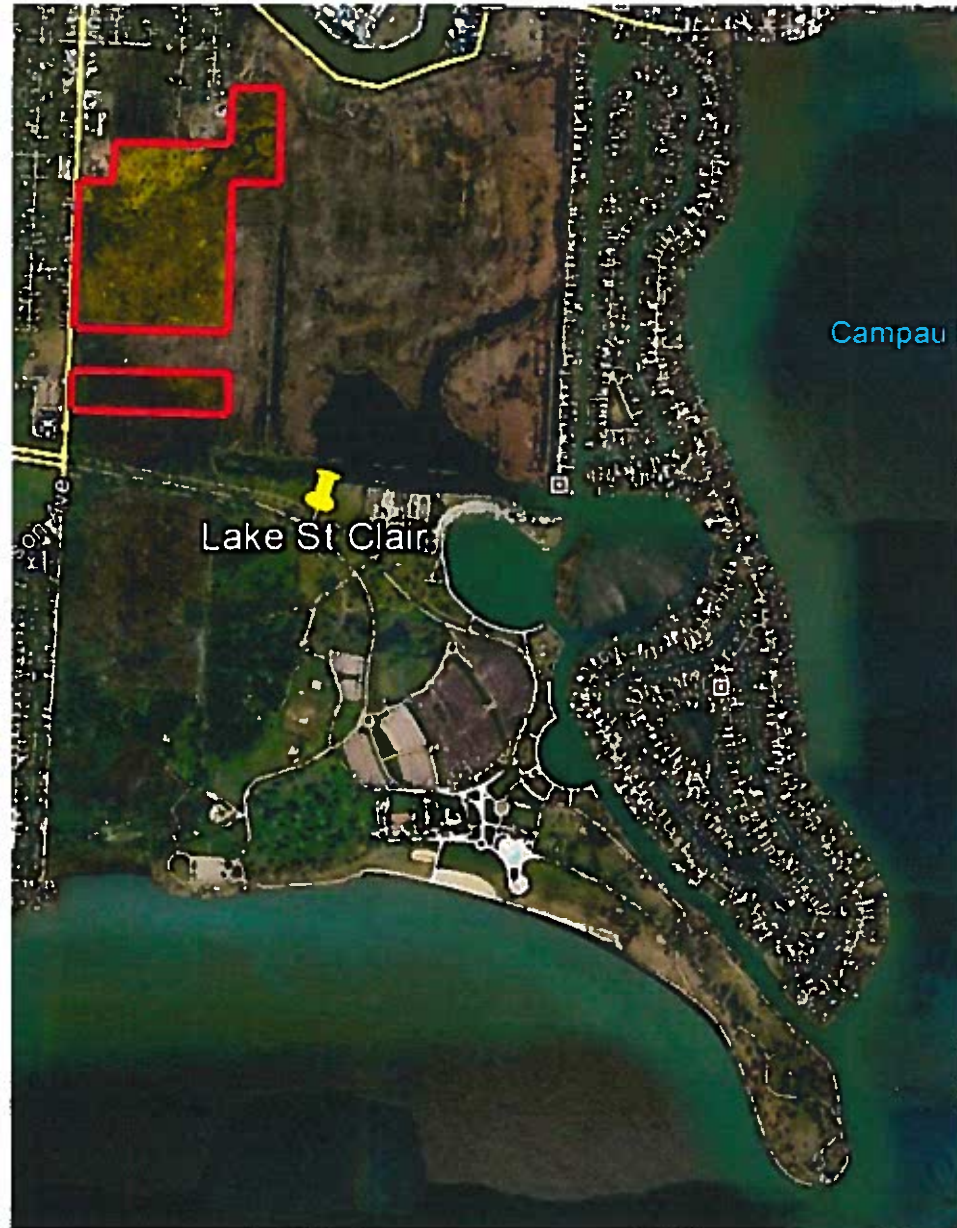


# Property Acquisitions (Indian Springs)





# Marsh Restoration (Lake St. Clair)



# Hike-Bike Trails



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# B2B Trail Collaboration

## B2B Funding Partners

- Washtenaw County Parks
- Washtenaw County Road Commission
- MDOT
- Village of Dexter
- MNRTF
- HCMA
  - Engineering Design
  - Surveying
  - Construction Over site
  - Grant Funding
  - Land
- “Iron Belle Trail” – state trail network





# B2B Trail Collaboration

- 35 mile trail from Wayne County to Livingston County
- Washtenaw County Parks, Metroparks, local units
- Five segments involving Metroparks completed since 2008
  - *Hudson Mills Metropark Phase I (2008)*
  - *Hudson Mills Metropark Phase II (2010 )*
  - *Mill Creek Bridge & Dexter Connector to HCMA Trail (2011)*
  - *Dexter to Dexter-Huron Metropark (2012)*
  - *Hudson Mills to Dexter Connector (2014)*
- Continuing to partner with Washtenaw County Parks on future segments
  - *Hudson Mills Metropark to Lakelands Trail State Park*
  - *Dexter-Huron Metropark to Delhi Metropark*





# Hike Bike Trail (Hudson Mills)





# Trail Connector (Milford)



# Natural Resources Department



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# The Natural Resources Department

**Goal:** Maintain natural environments that support a diversity of flora and fauna for park guests to study and enjoy both today and in the future.

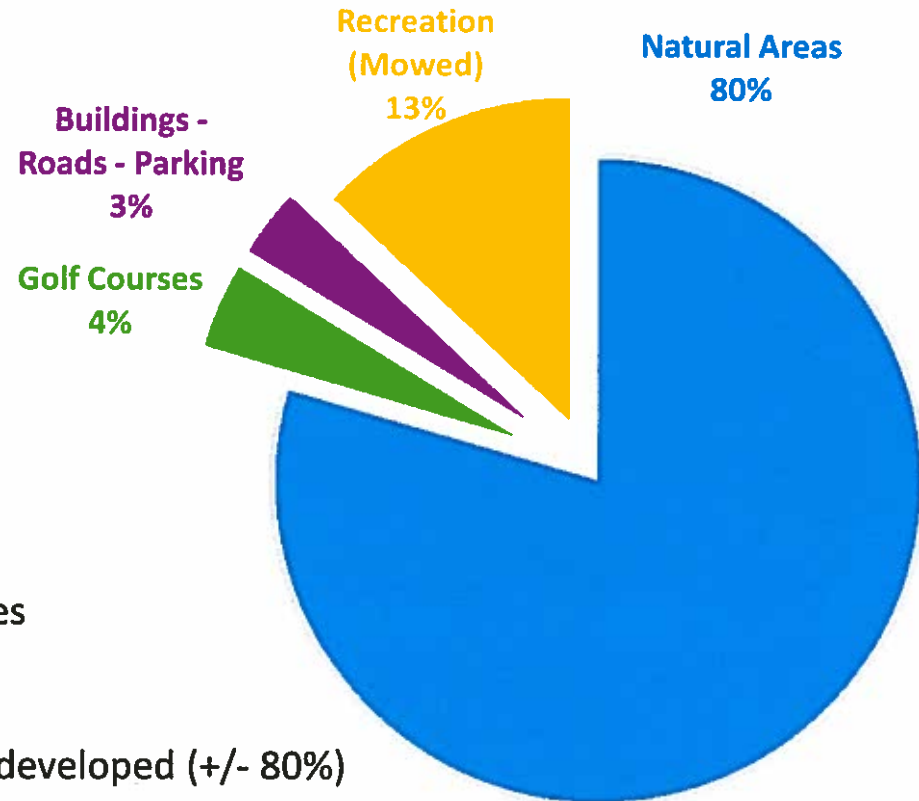
- Natural Areas Planning
- Habitat Restoration
- Invasive Species Control
- Prescribed Burning
- Wildlife Management
- Water Monitoring



Indian Springs Metropark



# Metropark Land Use



Main parkland consists roughly of 25,000 acres

## NATURAL AREAS

19,000 acres remain in a natural state or non-developed (+/- 80%)

- Forested 9,400 ac. (40%)
- Wetland 1,900 ac. (8%)
- Grassland 4,800 ac. (19%)
- Shrubland 1,600 ac. (6%)
- Lakes/Ponds 1,700 ac. (7%)

## RECREATION AREA

4,900 acres maintained / hard surface (+/-20%)

Developed (roads, parking, buildings) – 800 ac

Maintained Turfgrass (picnic areas, roads/walks, golf courses) – 4,100 ac



# Habitat Assessment

Assessments of 13 Metroparks have documented populations of **state-endangered, threatened, or special concern species**.

- 29 plants
- 20 birds
- 5 reptiles and amphibians
- 7 fish and mussels
- 11 natural communities

**Total species: 61**

**Total observations: + 900**

**Exemplary Communities: 20**

**11** – T/E/SC Species and 8 Exemplary Communities

**13** – Floristically important plant communities

**5** – Extremely rare plant communities



# Invasive Species



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## Honeysuckle



## Swallowwort



## Garlic Mustard



# Autumn Olive





# Buckthorn



Before



After





# Bittersweet



# Invasive Species Control



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# Invasive Species Control



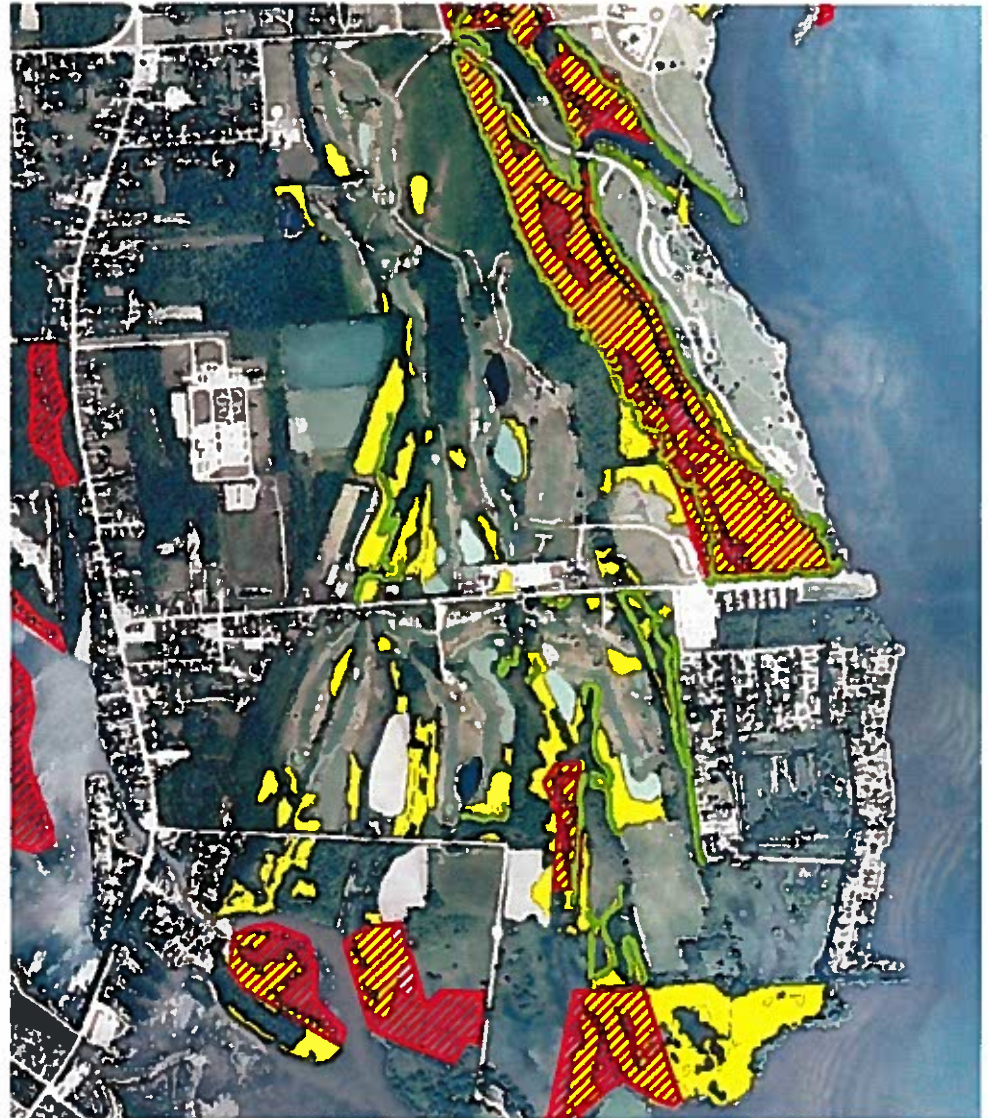


# Invasive Species Control

## Michigan Department of Natural Resources: Michigan Invasive Species Grant

Detroit River-Western Lake Erie  
Cooperative Weed Management Area

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
- Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- International Wildlife Refuge Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy





# Invasive Species Control

## Dexter-Huron



Before



After



# Invasive Species Control

Kensington



Before



After



# Invasive Species Control

## Stony Creek



Before



After



# Volunteer Workdays



# Habitat Restoration



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# Habitat Restoration



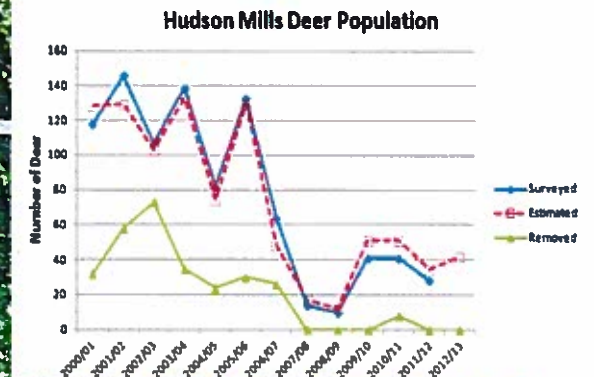
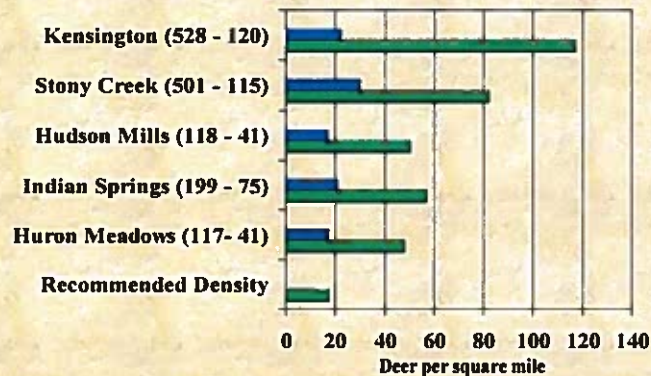




# Wildlife Management



## Deer density (per park) and per square mile





# Water Resource Management

Fish and Mussel Surveys in Hudson Mills Metropark, Huron River



STORM WATER MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM PLAN  
FOR  
THE  
HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY



## Stony Creek Lake Fishery Assessment 2005

WASHINGTON & OAKLAND TOWNSHIPS, MACOMB & OAKLAND  
COUNTIES, MICHIGAN

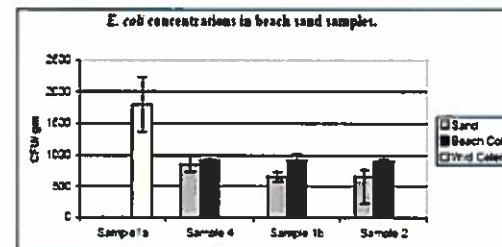


Figure 1A *E. coli* concentrations in beach sand, sand colon and wild colony bottom from Silver Beach on Lake St. Clair in 2007



# PLANNING DEPARTMENT

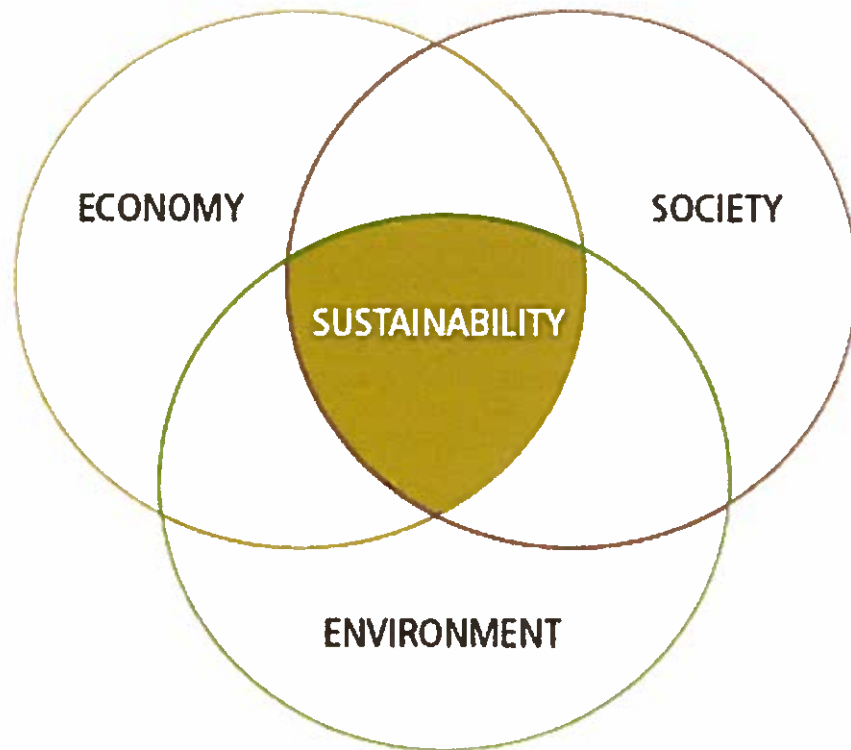


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# Planning Department



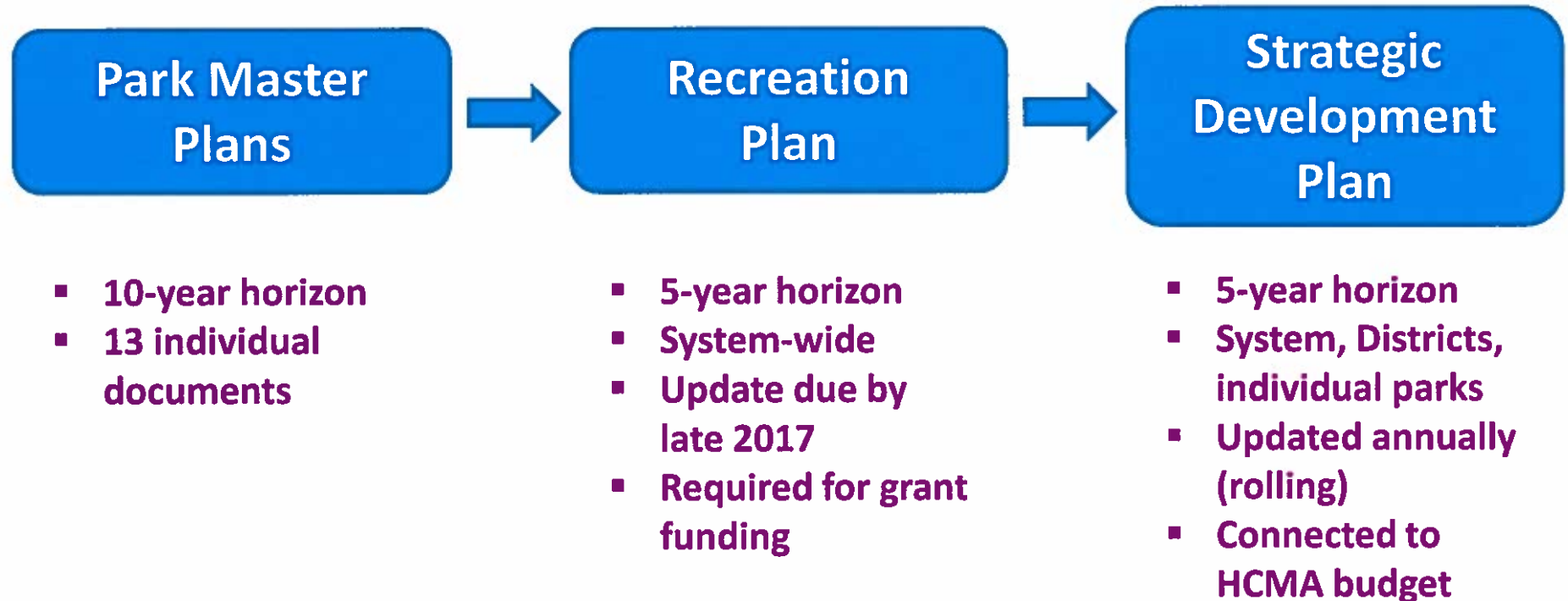
## Organizational Role

- Develop economically sound strategies for achieving and maintaining balance between the natural environment and recreation
- Coordinate plan development and implementation with Metroparks staff and neighboring landowners
- Engage stakeholders in planning processes
- Participate in local and regional planning initiatives



# Planning Department

## Primary Functions





# INTERPRETIVE DEPARTMENT



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# Interpretive Services Department



Kensington Metropark  
Mobile Learning Center



Indian Springs Metropark  
Environmental Discovery Center

## 10 INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

- Two farm centers
- One historic mill
- One mobile learning center
- Five traditional nature centers
- One environmental discovery center
- One Activity Center interpretive program



## GOALS

- Provide innovative, interactive, effective mission based interpretation for visitors.
- Provide high quality interpretation while being fiscally responsible.
- Evaluate, maintain, and strive to improve our services in all areas of interpretation both personal and non-personal.
- Maintain a high degree of professionalism for all Interpretive Services staff.
- Facilitate communication between Interpretive services and stakeholders.



Indian Springs Metropark  
Environmental Discovery Center





## THE METROPARKS INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM HAS GAINED NATIONAL ATTENTION

Outside of the National Parks it is one of the largest interpretive programs in the nation.

Recognized for its:

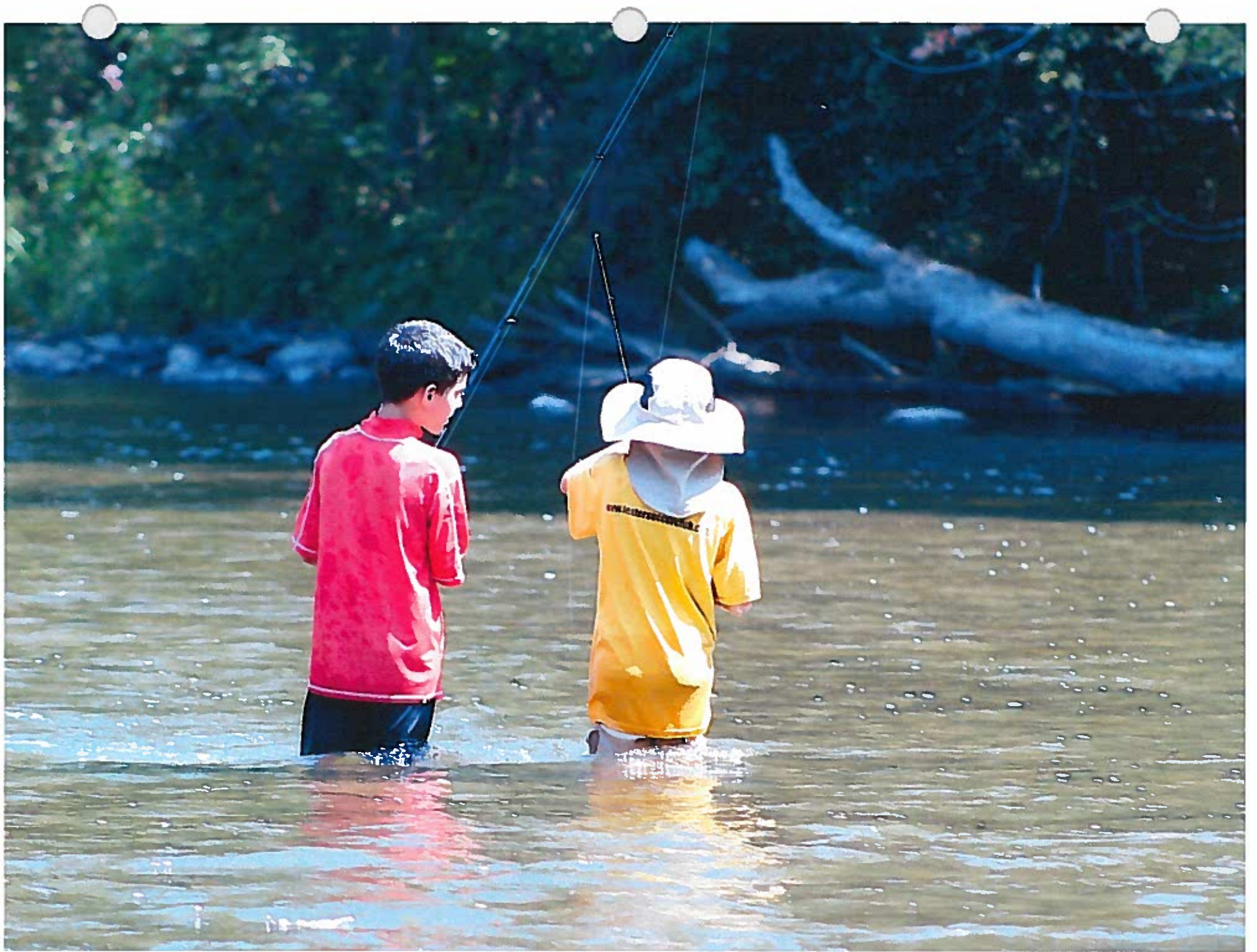
- Professional leadership
- Diverse educational programs
- Expertise of staff
- Commitment to the natural and cultural environment



Indian Springs Metropark  
Environmental Discovery Center



Kensington Metropark  
Nature Center





# ASSETS & DEVELOPMENT



**HURON-CLINTON metroparks**

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# Assets and Development

Maintaining, Upgrading, Replacing  
Infrastructure

- Improving Efficiency
- Providing Better Service
- Consolidating Services
- Focused Infrastructure





# Assets and Development

## Diverse Infrastructure



- Roads
- Trails
- Paved Surfaces
- Buildings
  - Golf Starter
  - Nature Centers
  - Park Office Buildings
  - Maintenance Buildings
  - Picnic Shelters
- Dams
- Pools
- Squirt Zones
- Marinas
- Boat Launch Facilities
- Water & Sewer
- Golf Courses
- Play Structures
- Grounds
- Natural Feature Areas





# Infrastructure Challenges

- 87 Picnic Shelters
- 12 Fishing Platforms
- 20 Pedestrian bridges
- 11 Vehicular bridges
- 5 Dams
- 64 Miles of Paved Roads (total current cost to repair \$4,976,368)
- 45 Miles of Paved Trails (total current cost to repair \$2,048,600)
- 938,011 square yards of Parking Lots (total current cost to repair \$8,533,5300)



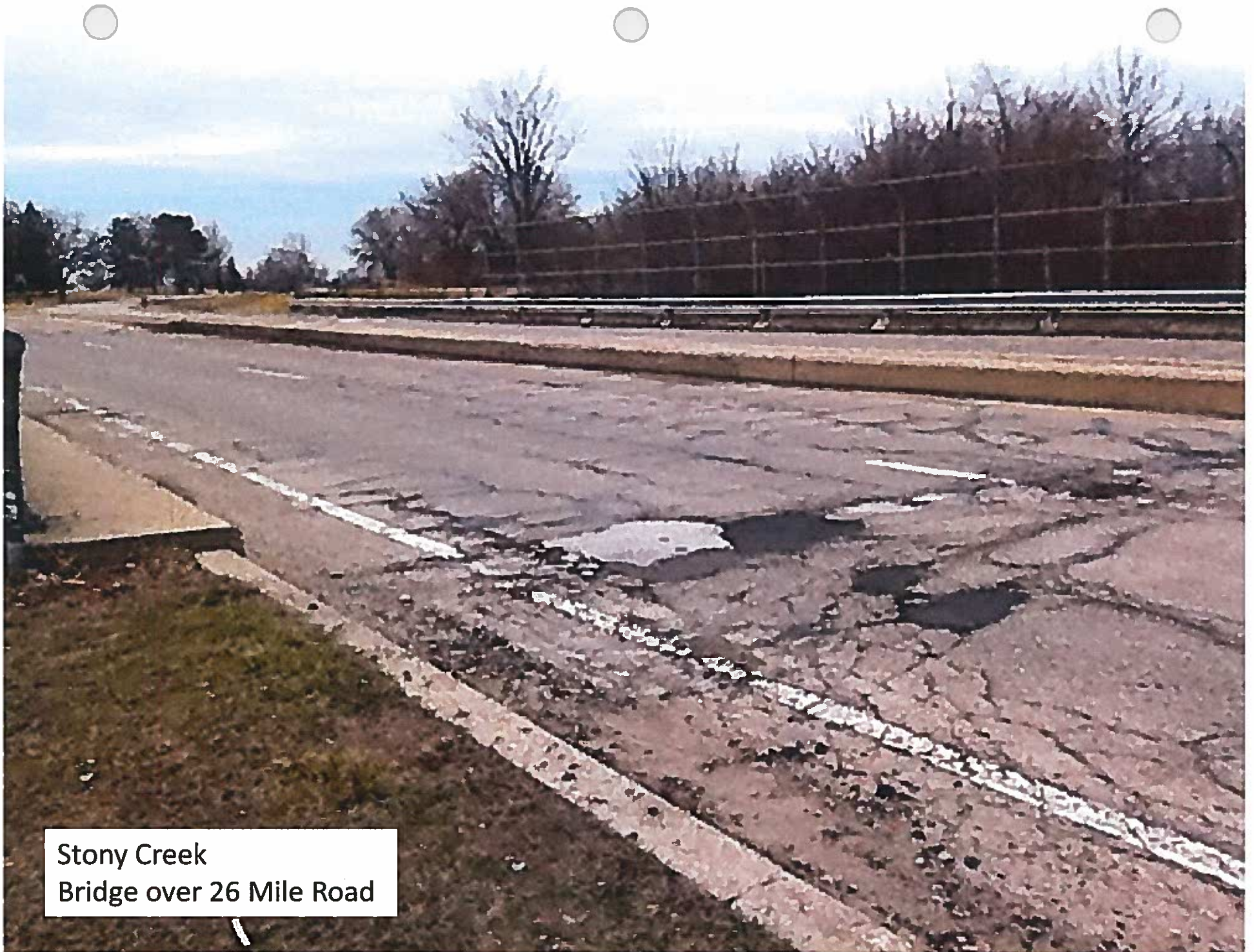
# Infrastructure Challenges (con't)

- 10 Miles of Aggregate Roads
- 288 Structures and 600,259 square feet of building area
- 87 picnic shelters
- Currently have more than **\$35 million** dollars of repairs
- Annual Capital Budget approximately **\$7 million**
- Annual Major Maintenance Budget approximately **\$2 million**



# Park Roads





Stony Creek  
Bridge over 26 Mile Road





# Parking Lots







# Assets and Development

## Moving Forward



- Collaboration
  - Local Communities
  - Private Partnerships
  - State and Local Agencies
- Balancing Infrastructure
  - Revenue
  - Labor Support
- Multi Use Multi Purpose Facilities
  - Evaluate Existing Facilities
- Offering New Innovative Recreational Opportunities
- Support of Core Mission Values



# Collaboration



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# HCMA Collaboration



- Local Units of Government
  - *Provided land for local Fire stations*
  - *Provided land and lease agreements for local Parks*
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
- State Agencies
  - *MDNR, MDEQ*
- Federal Agencies
  - *US Fish and Wildlife*
- Universities
  - *Water Quality Research*
  - *Turf Grass Stewardship*
- Nonprofit Organizations
  - *Community Gardens*
  - *Scout Groups*
  - *Charitable Organizations*
  - *Huron River Watershed Council*
- Local Schools
  - *Mobile Learning*
  - *Nature Center Programs*



# Lake St. Clair Metropark

## MDNR Summer Youth Employment Program



The Metroparks partnered with the MDNR summer employment program to control aquatic invasive species by providing summer youth and young adults skills, training and an opportunity to gain meaningful work experience.





# Lake St. Clair Metropark

## MDNR Summer Youth Employment Program



- ❖ 16 to 19 year olds (15 weeks and 32 people)
- ❖ 1,024 total hours worked
- ❖ More than 23,000 pounds (11.5 tons) of European Frogbit was removed from the coastal marshes at Lake St. Clair Metropark



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# Metroparks Projects



HURON-CLINTON metroparks

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# Lake St. Clair Metropark

Storm Water Greenscape Project - Today

2015 Michigan American Society of  
Landscape Architects Merit Award





# Lake St. Clair Metropark

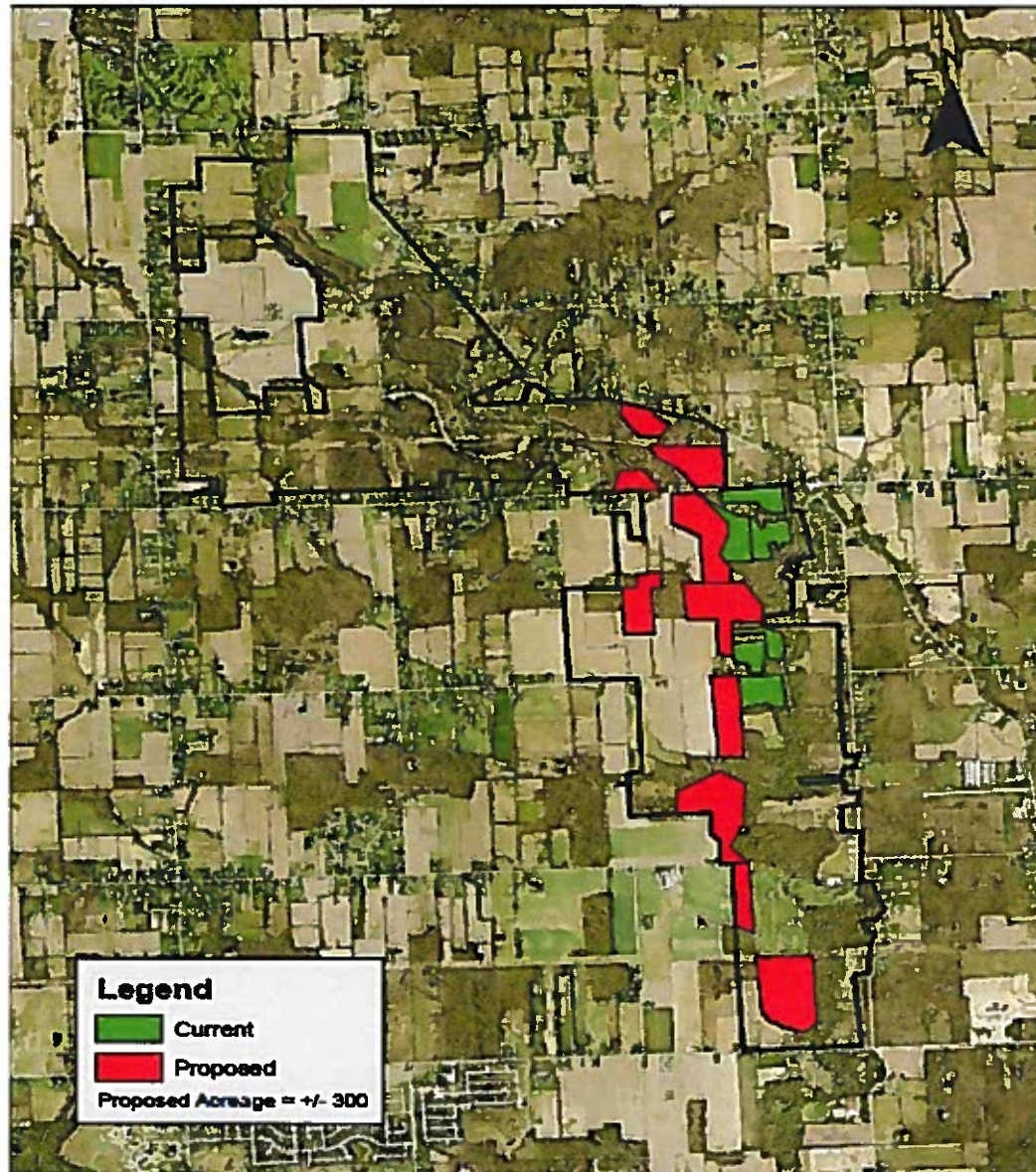


Engaging students from Wayne State University, Oakland University and Macomb Community College on beach monitoring, water quality research, storm water monitoring and habitat restoration monitoring.



# Wolcott Mill Metropark

## North Branch of the Clinton River Habitat Restoration Projects



- Buffer the river from potential impacts of agriculture.
- Increase storm water retention.
- Reconnect fragmented forested systems.
- Restore native wetlands and grasslands to improve pollinator and grassland bird habitat.



# Future Projects



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# Lake St. Clair Metropark

## West Beachfront/Playground Redevelopment Project

### Components:

- ❖ Playground
- ❖ Tennis courts
- ❖ Adult fitness equipment
- ❖ Walkways/landscaping

A proposed \$1.5 million playground and West beachfront enhancement project at Lake St. Clair Metropark.



PS 191560  
Lake St Clair Metropark

Sales Representative  
**PLAYWORLD**  
EQUIPMENT

Equipment Manufacturer  
**PLAYWORLD**  
The world needs play



# Lake St. Clair Metropark

## Beach Front





# Lake St. Clair Metropark

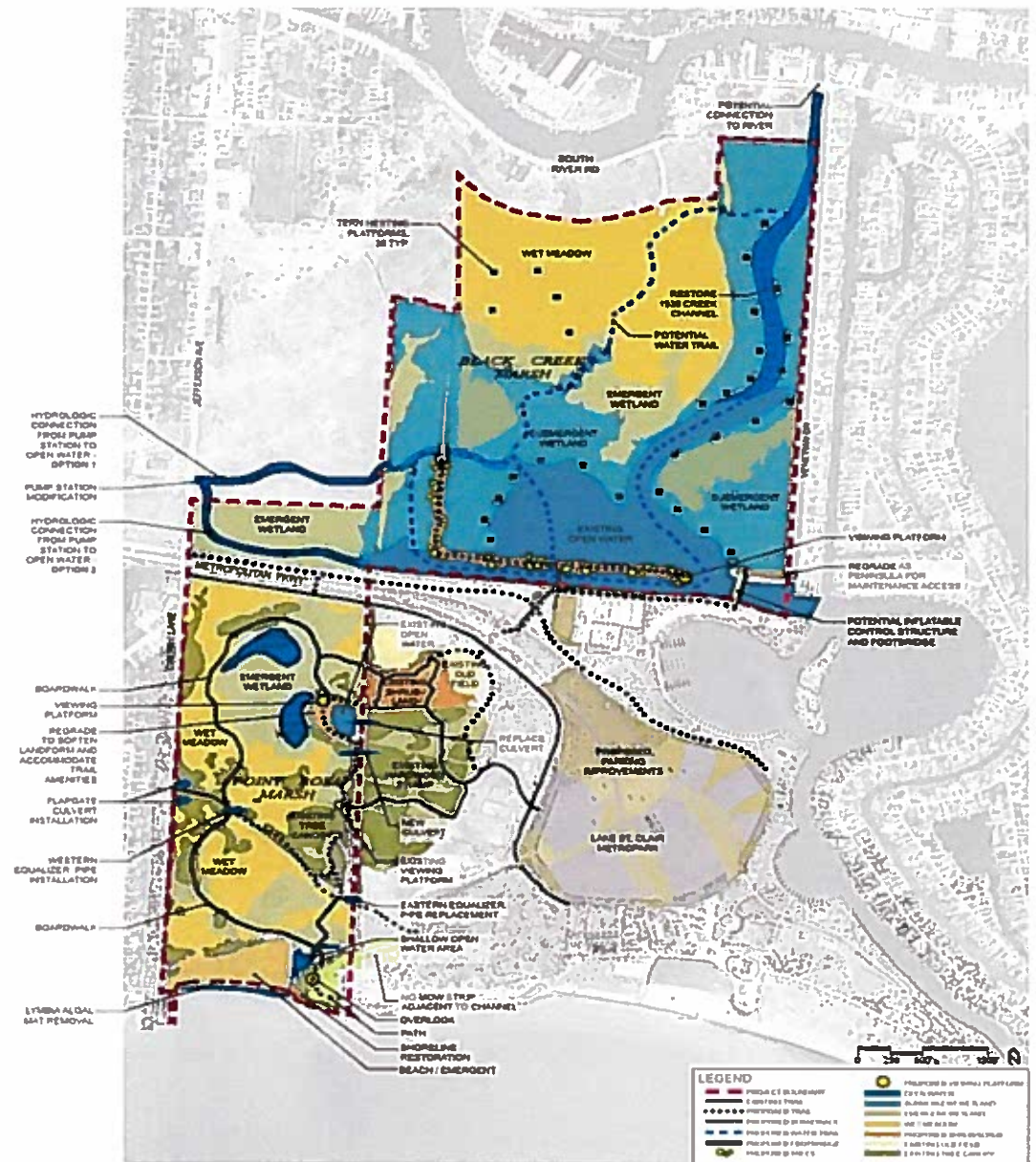
**Marsh Restoration Projects**  
2010 - 2016 GLRI/EPA Grants  
➤ + \$2 million

Hydrology study and improvements for  
invasive vegetation control  
habitat improvements education.

## Partners and Collaborators

Macomb County Planning  
Township of Harrison  
MDNR  
SEMOG

Clinton River Watershed Council  
Wayne State University  
Ducks Unlimited





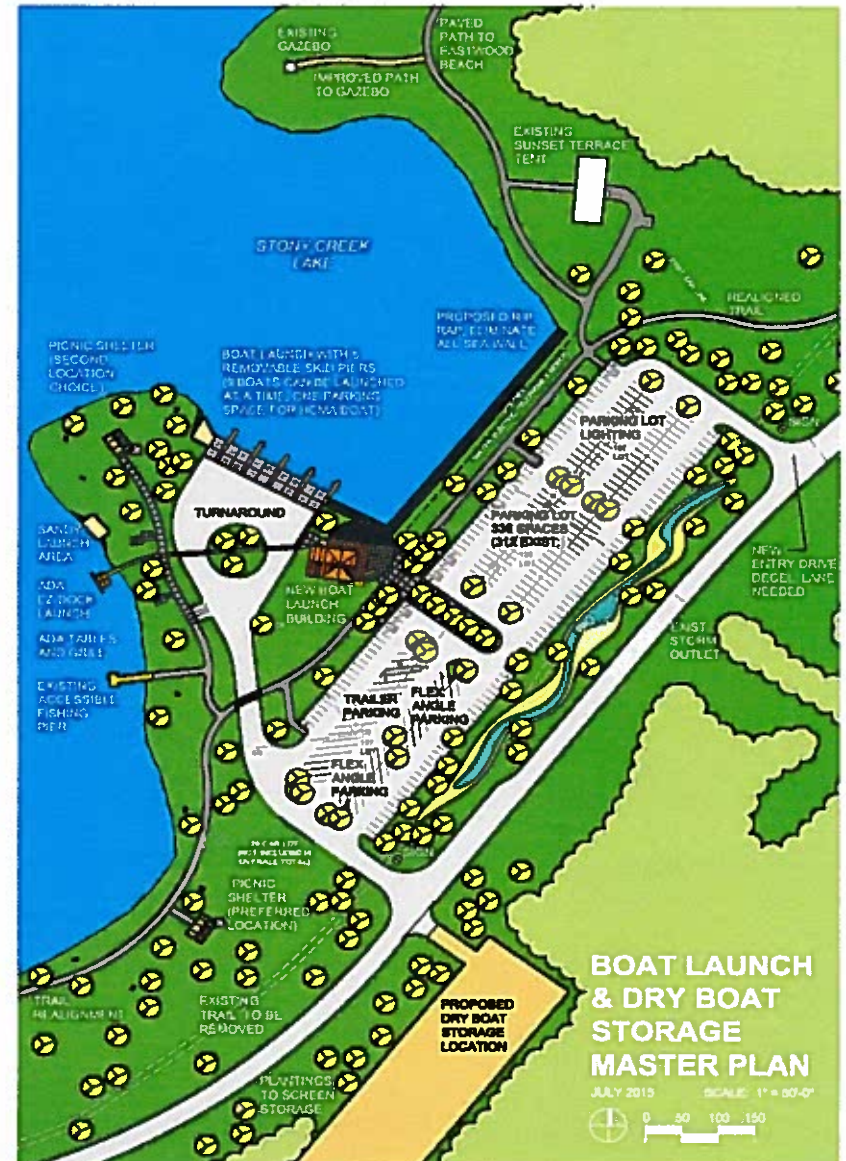
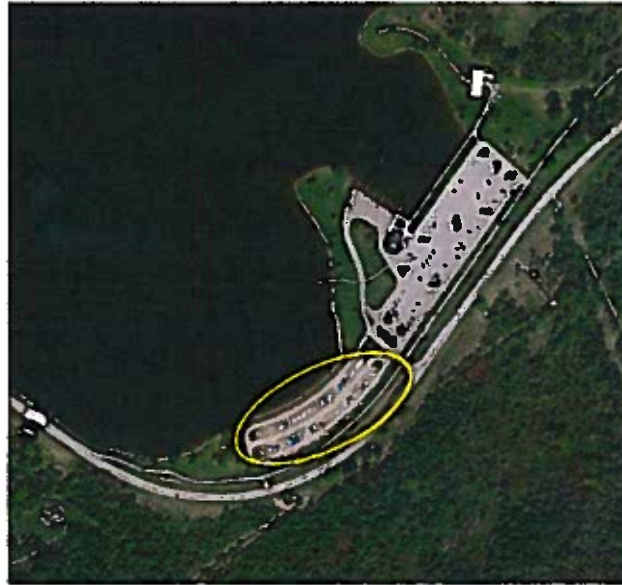
# Stony Creek Metropark

## Boat Storage Area Redevelopment

Existing storage lot needs fencing and lighting upgrades.

The existing storage location sits on prime lake frontage, which can be better utilized for park visitors and special events.

Moving the storage location will also improve lake visibility from the bike trail and the main park roadway.



# Metroparks



- Critical to this region
- A significant asset to Southeast Michigan
- Connects communities to the natural environment,



HURON-CLINTON metroparks

DELHI • DEXTER • HURON • HUDSON MILLS • HURON MEADOWS  
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LOWER HURON • OAKWOODS • STONY CREEK  
WILLOW • WOLCOTT

# Metroparks



- Collaborators and providers of recreational opportunities
- Impacts the quality of life for all
- Committed to serving all citizens throughout Southeast Michigan and beyond



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Visit the Metroparks online at [www.metroparks.com](http://www.metroparks.com)

**Thank you!**



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